

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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P 232200Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1547

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7541

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PE
SUBJ: MINE STRIKE: ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES

REF: LIMA 7472

1. THE MINE AND METALWORKERS STRIKE GENERALLY REMAINS UNCHANGED ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW MORE WORKERS SHOWING UP AT HIERROPERU AND CENTROMIN. THE STRIKE AT SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION'S (SPCC) TOQUEPALA MINE AND ILO SMELTER REMAINS UNCHANGED. SPCC'S CUAJONE MINE, WHICH BOTH LEFTISTS AND THE CTP CLAIM TO HAVE ORGANIZED, CONTINUES TO OPERATE NORMALLY. MINERS FROM THE CERRO DE PASCO AREA HAVE BEEN COMING INTO LIMA WITH THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS TO SUPPORT THE STRIKE. ACCORDING TO THREE MINeworkERS FROM CENTROMIN, THERE ARE OVER 2,000 HERE FROM THEIR AREA. SO FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN FEW PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE MINERS' DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDING A BRIEF APPEARANCE IN PLAZA BOLIVAR WHERE THE ASSEMBLY IS MEETING.

2. OBSERVERS HAD EXPECTED THE MINERS' STRIKE TO DOMINATE THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION AUG 22. HOWEVER, WHEN UDP'S RICARDO DIEZ CANSECO TRIED TO RETURN TO THE LABOR AMNESTY AND MINE STRIKE QUESTION, HAYA DE LA TORRE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN FOCEP'S GENARO LEDESMA AND MINeworkER
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REPRESENTATIVES AND PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AUG 23. HAYA THEN CALLED FOR A VOTE ON DIEZ CANSECO'S MOTION AND APRA AND PPC VOTED TO HALT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE ASSEMBLY MEETING CENTERED ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLE 3 (LIMA 6909) CONCERNING THE ASSEMBLY'S AUTHORITY WITH MORE CLASHES BETWEEN APRA AND THE LEFT.

FOCEP LEADER LEDESMA CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE COURTEOUS ATTENTION OF HAYA, WHO AGAIN REFERRED TO HIM AS THE "LEADER OF THE LEFT." THE SESSION ENDED AT 4:00 AM WITH ARTICLE 3 STILL UNDER DEBATE AND WILL RESUME AUG 25.

4. COMMENT: HAYA'S INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP THE MORALES/LEDESMA MEETING DEFTLY SIDETRACKED THE DIFFICULT MINERS' QUESTION FOR THE MOMENT. HOWEVER, THE UNDERLYING ISSUE OF THE POWER OF THE EXTREME LEFT, THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOP AND THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY REMAINS UNRESOLVED. HAYA, HOWEVER, IS EVIDENTLY BENT ON WOOING WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE THE MORE "REASONABLE" ELEMENTS OF THE EXTREME LEFT, SUCH AS LEDESMA, TO KEEP THEIR ACTIVITIES WITHIN BOUNDS. SHLAUDEMAN

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